

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A chopper folder for a rotary press for folding signatures which are periodically conveyed, one signature at a time, from a folding machine, comprising:

a pair of folding rollers for folding a signature parallel to a conveyance direction of said signatures;

a prime mover;

a crank arm fixed to an output shaft of the prime mover to be rotated together with the output shaft;

a blade holder connected to the crank arm via a link;

a chopper blade held in the blade holder and adapted to push the signature from an upper surface thereof in order to insert the signature into a space between the pair of folding rollers; and

at least one guide unit with at least a linear guide rail connected to a linear slider wherein the linear slider is connected to the blade holder for restricting motion of the blade holder such that the blade holder reciprocates only in a linear direction perpendicular to a conveyance plane along which the signature is conveyed.

Claim 2 (allowed): A chopper folder for a rotary press for folding signatures which are periodically conveyed, one signature at a time, from a folding machine, comprising:

a pair of folding rollers for folding a signature parallel to a conveyance direction of said signatures;

a prime mover;

a crank arm fixed to an output shaft of the prime mover to be rotated together with the output shaft;

a blade holder connected to the crank arm via a link;

a chopper blade held in the blade holder and adapted to push the signature from an upper surface thereof in order to insert the signature into a space between the pair of folding rollers; and

at least one guide unit for restricting motion of the blade holder such that the blade holder reciprocates only in a direction perpendicular to a conveyance plane along which the signature is conveyed, wherein

the guide unit comprises sliders provided at opposite ends of the blade holder, and two guide rails arranged along the conveyance direction and adapted to guide the sliders;

the guide rails are supported such that a clearance greater than a thickness of the signature is provided between the guide rails and the conveyance plane, and each of the guide rails has a guide surface perpendicular to the conveyance plane; and

guided portions of the sliders are movable, while maintaining close contact with the guide surfaces of the guide rails at all times.